



CHANGE IS ON THE WAY



"Today we begin in earnest the work of making sure that the world we leave our children is just a little bit better than the one we inhabit today."

- **President-Elect Barack Obama**

Official Website of the Office of the President-Elect of the United States

The Inauguration – 20th January 2009

Presidential Election and the Transition 2008 Biographies of President-Elect Barack Obama and Mrs Obama, and of Vice President-Elect Joe Biden and Mrs Biden, etc.

The World Looks to Obama – Foreign Policy Challenges: Part I Part II

Maya Angelou – It's Time to Lift America's Spirit

100 Stories on Barack Obama The O-List – Obama's Washington: The 30 People Who Matter Most

What Now? Staffing the White House - How do you wish to organize your staff? In what order should you make the appointments? Consider the degree of tension that you want to build into your system. What are the qualities you need in your key assistants?

See also our e-spotlite - Transition To Power

SPOTLIGHT is produced monthly by the American Reference Center, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Wellington.

It offers abstracts of current articles from U.S. publications and by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in international or U.S. domestic affairs. **Views expressed in the articles cited are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.**

** You can either read the whole document or skip to subject – pl. see box at right **

All ARTICLES underlined are available online –“click” on ARTICLE #
If you are unable to access the articles please contact us by email @
Wellington.arc@state.gov citing article numbers. Thank you.

If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, download it now
<http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/>

International Relations
Politics/Election
Trade /Economy
Environment/Energy
Business
Education
Media
American Society
The Arts/Culture
Comms/InfoTechnology
Space

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Strategic Collaboration: How the United States Can Thrive as Other Powers Rise by Nina Hachigian & Mona Sutphen in *Washington Quarterly*, Autumn.

The new president will face a radically different world than the one that George W. Bush inherited, beyond instability in the Middle East, several major new world powers have emerged. The authors argue that, instead of regarding the emergence of China, India and Russia as a threat to American prominence, the next administration must harness the power of these new players, especially through a new forum (G-13?) which they consider would be a bold and useful step that the next president could take both to convince the world that the United States wants to join it again and to further the collaboration with pivotal powers and tackle the greatest threats to contemporary global security. They note that this new world is shaped by technology, rather than ideology, allowing money, goods, and people to cross borders. By the same token, infectious diseases can spread with similar ease, but that technology has empowered rogue states and terrorist groups. They see the greatest threats to the peace and prosperity do not emanate from other strong powers but from these "technologically empowered forces of chaos - the rotten fruit of globalization."

[ARTICLE 736](#)

Policy and Security Implications of the Financial Crisis: A Plan for America by James K. Galbraith in *Challenge*, November/December.

In mid-June 2008, an international group of economists met in Paris to discuss the gravity of the current economic crisis and what the United States should do about it. The meeting was convened by Economists for Peace and Security and the Initiative for Rethinking the Economy. The author presided over the off-the-record discussions, summarized here on his own responsibility. In the process, he provides one of the most comprehensive and compelling assessments of where the United States and the world now stand, and what can be done to ameliorate the situation.

[ARTICLE 737](#)

The Neocons vs. The Realists by Joshua Muravchik and Stephen M. Walt in *The National Interest*, September/October.

A must-read debate about America's foreign-policy future. Does realism offer the best solutions to today's threats? Or will neo-conservatism be responsible for America's policy triumphs?

[ARTICLE 738](#)

The Legend of a Democracy Promoter by Amy Zegart in *The National Interest*, Sept./October.

With both John McCain and Barack Obama embracing the freedom agenda, America's moral crusade is here to stay, says Zegart who assesses the Bush foreign-policy legacy, looking at how and why democracy promotion became a permanent fixture of American foreign policy.

[ARTICLE 739](#)

Declining Public Support for Global Engagement Overview. *Pew Research Center*, 24 September.

This recent report reveals that the public is feeling much better about how the war in Iraq is going these days, but at the same time has a sharply diminished support for U.S. efforts to deal with an array of global problems. Fewer people than at any point in this decade assign high priority to such foreign policy goals as preventing genocide, strengthening the United Nations, promoting and defending human rights, etc.

[ARTICLE 740](#)

From Grand Game to Grand Bargain by Barnett R. Rubin & Ahmed Rashid in *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/December.

The crisis in Afghanistan and Pakistan is beyond the point where more troops will help. U.S. strategy must be to seek compromise with insurgents while addressing an array of regional rivalries and insecurities.

[ARTICLE 741](#)

The Army's Green Warriors *RAND Corporation*, 23 September. 5p.

The U.S. Army has much to gain by carefully integrating environmental considerations into operational concepts, plans, and procedures during contingency operations. Evidence from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other conflicts suggests that a shift to a comprehensive approach to environmental considerations that encompasses policy, culture, planning, training, and investment can boost overall mission success.

[ARTICLE 742](#)

Thwarting Afghanistan's Insurgency: A Pragmatic Approach Toward Peace and Reconciliation by Mohammad Masoon Stanekzai. *USIP*, September.

Over the course of years, the author has traveled to many places inside Afghanistan and participated in numerous meetings and conferences centered on peace, stability, and reconstruction. The analysis and conclusions drawn in this report are based on the author's wide range of discussions with ordinary Afghans (men and women), senior government officials, and members of the international community working in or on Afghanistan. [**ARTICLE 743**](#)

Chavez Wrecks Venezuela, Democracy by Roger Noriega. *American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research*, 25 September.

According to Roger Noriega, the author, despite all appearances, Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez is not popular in his own country. While he is busy destroying the domestic economy, spending billions on vanity projects in foreign countries as the Venezuelan infrastructure crumbles, and supporting Colombian terrorists, his people are taking note. The November regional elections are a chance for the people to tell their president that they have had enough. [**ARTICLE 744**](#)

Saudi Arabia's "Soft" Counterterrorism Strategy: Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Aftercare by Christopher Boucek. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP)*, 28 September. 32p.

The increasing use of unconventional, "soft" measures to combat violent extremism in Saudi Arabia is bearing positive results, leading others in the region, including the United States in Iraq, to adopt a similar approach. Boucek believes that understanding the successes of the Saudi strategy, composed of prevention, rehabilitation, and aftercare programs, will be important in the fight against radical Islamist extremism. Saudi authorities claim a rehabilitation success rate of 80-90%. [**ARTICLE 745**](#)

Al-Qaeda and Its Affiliates: A Global Tribe Waging Segmental Warfare by David Ronfeldt. *RAND Corporation*, 10 October. 23p.

Al Qaeda and its affiliates are operating much like a global tribe waging segmental warfare, according to the paper. It describes the dynamics of classic tribes: what drives them, how they organize, how they fight. Al Qaeda fits the tribal paradigm. Al Qaeda and affiliates are using the information age to reiterate ancient patterns of tribalism on a global scale. Ronfeldt suggest that the tribal paradigm should be added to the network and other prevailing paradigms to help figure out the best policies and strategies for countering these violent actors. [**ARTICLE 746**](#)

The New Competition for Global Resources *Knowledge@Wharton, University of Pennsylvania*, 28 September. 24p.

Companies in the U.S. and Western Europe once had unfettered access to the world's resources, such as raw materials, capital and talent. Thanks to increasing demand from India, China, Brazil, Russia and other rapidly developing economies, however, that access is no longer assured. In the report, experts discuss the ways in which this unprecedented "race" for resources is reshaping global business, and how key political and financial trends in emerging economies are likely to affect companies anywhere in the world. [**ARTICLE 747**](#)

China, Space Weapons, and U.S. Security by Bruce MacDonald. *Council on Foreign Relations*, Sept. 71p.

China's successful test of an anti-satellite weapon in 2007, followed by the U.S. destruction earlier this year of an out-of-control U.S. satellite, demonstrated that space may soon no longer remain a relative sanctuary from military conflict. The author illuminates the strategic landscape of this new military space competition and highlights the dangers and opportunities the United States confronts in the space arena. [**ARTICLE 748**](#)

God, Man, and the Ballot Box by Ruel Marc Gerecht in *The American*, November/December.

Why George Bush was right about democratization in the Middle East.

Please contact us for a copy of this article [**ARTICLE 749**](#)

IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database *International Atomic Energy Agency*, 26 September. 7p.

Established in 1995, the *ITDB* is the *IAEA*'s information system on incidents of illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities involving nuclear and radioactive materials. The scope of the *ITDB* information is broad and includes, but is not limited to, incidents involving the illegal trade and movement of materials across borders. The database tracks events that occurred intentionally or unintentionally, with or without crossing international borders, as well as unsuccessful or thwarted acts.

ARTICLE 750

The Future of Pensions and Healthcare in a Rapidly Ageing World: Scenarios to 2030 by Bernd Jan Sikken et al. *World Economic Forum*, September. Note: 115p.

The world is ageing at an unprecedented rate. The authors warn that this will undermine the financial sustainability of not only traditional pension systems, but also conventional healthcare systems. The report argues that urgent action in many countries around the globe is required to meet these challenges. It indicates that new forms of collaboration between key stakeholders, individuals, financial institutions, healthcare providers, employers and governments, will be critical to finance the ongoing well-being of current and future generations in a sustainable manner.

ARTICLE 751

Lifting the Bamboo Curtain by Robert Kaplan in the *Atlantic Monthly*, September.

Kaplan believes that democracy will not deliver Burma from being a cobbled-together mini-empire of nationalities, even if it does open the door to compromise among them, as he also notes that one-third of Burma's population is composed of ethnic minorities living in the country's borderlands. Both China and India are competing for power and influence in resource-rich Burma. Kaplan interviewed four Americans, who declined to be identified, with deep ties to the country. Among their observations: War fatigue has set in and the ethnic tribes show little propensity to fight each other after the regime unravels; the regime's 400,000-man army is prone to mutiny and could easily be unraveled; and, the U.S. should be building friendly relationships with Burma's ethnic minorities.

ARTICLE 752

China Through Arab Eyes: American Influence in the Middle East by Chris Zambelis & Brandon Gentry in *Parameters*, Spring.

Gentry and Zambelis, both associates with the political and security risk analysis firm Helios Global, Inc., focus on the influence of the U.S. in the Middle East, an influence which is currently being challenged by China, as Beijing skillfully exploits Arab dissatisfaction with American policies. Sino-Arab relations are poised to develop and expand across social, political, economic, and cultural sectors. The authors believe that Washington cannot afford to ignore the unavoidable truth of the Arab world's growing interest in China's potential.

ARTICLE 753

Inside Iran's Fury by Stephen Kinzer, in *Smithsonian*, October.

Americans need to understand some Iranian history before they cast the Tehran government as an international renegade in an attempt to acquire nuclear weapons, Kinzer asserts. Iran, one of the world's oldest nations, enjoyed an era of science and culture when Europe was in the Dark Ages. It began to decline in the 18th century, due to domination by foreign powers; in the 19th century, with the help of corrupt and ineffective Persian rulers, Britain gained influence. Iranians also have fresh memory of the 1953 CIA-backed coup, which deposed a democratic government and installed the authoritarian Mohammed Reza as Shah. Kinzer notes that a long history of foreign intrusion is behind Iran's push to build a nuclear program. However, the current regime maintains public support only through nationalist and anti-American propaganda; desire for greater engagement with the outside world is building today among the Iranian public, especially young people, who comprise a majority of the population.

ARTICLE 754

The Politics of Hunger by Paul Collier in *Foreign Affairs*, November/December.

The food crisis could have dire effects on the poor. Politicians have it in their power to bring food prices down, but doing so will require ending the bias against big commercial farms and genetically modified crops and doing away with damaging subsidies.

ARTICLE 755

Terrorist Assets Report. *Office of Foreign Assets Control, U.S. Department of the Treasury*, 13 October. 19p.

The blocked asset amounts described in the report represent amounts frozen under U.S. sanctions programs that block all property and interests in property of designated parties. The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (the TRIA) includes a provision making blocked assets of a terrorist party available to satisfy certain judgments against terrorist parties, including judgments based on claims for which sovereign immunity of foreign states is waived by claims for personal injury or death. [**ARTICLE 756**](#)

Standoff at the 38th Parallel by John Bolton & James A. Kelly in *The National Interest*, November.

A nuclear North Korea is more than a foreign-policy irritant. Sharing radioactive knowledge with other malcontents would be a disaster. With current negotiations facing hard times, two former statesmen go head-to-head on how to handle the DPRK. John Bolton argues it is time for a harsh crackdown on a misbehaving North, while James Kelly thinks we need to give talks a chance. [**ARTICLE 757**](#)

The Need for Missile Defense by Peter Brookes in *Policy Review*, November/December.

Brookes outlines these dangerous states with big ambitions – Iran, with its runaway nuclear program, North Korea's atomic assistance to Syria, and robust ballistic missile production and testing by Russia and China, a missile defense system for protecting the homeland and U.S. interests overseas remains a controversial idea in some corners. It should not be. The security challenge arising from the proliferation of ballistic missiles and the dangerous payloads they might carry, including weapons of mass destruction (WMD) like nuclear arms, is a threat that — in fact — may be growing. [**ARTICLE 758**](#)

Abrahamic Alternatives to War: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives on Just Peacemaking by Susan Thistlethwaite & Glen Stassen. *USIP*, October. 19p.

Eight Muslim scholar-leaders, six Jewish scholar-leaders, and eight Christian scholar-leaders met from June 13 to 15, 2007, in Stony Point, N.Y., at a conference sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace and the Churches' Center for Theology and Public Policy. Conference participants specified practices within each of the three faith traditions that could lay the groundwork for nonviolent alternatives to resolving conflict and addressing injustice, while also identifying roadblocks in the sacred texts of their traditions to creating such processes. [**ARTICLE 759**](#)

To Win Hearts and Minds, Give Coast Guard New Hospital Ships by Craig Hooper and Jim Dolbow in *National Defense Magazine*, November.

The authors write that humanitarian missions are a perfect fit for the Coast Guard. Hospital ships should be added to its fleet; properly equipped, the Coast Guard can carry out missions, they say, in the diplomatic space in which the Navy cannot. Coast Guard hospital ships would offer the U.S. another way "to engage in politically sensitive disaster response and medical outreach projects." Such ships have the added advantage of being suitable platforms for command and control, educational outreach or floating bases. As the Navy's two existing hospital ships face retirement, the Coast Guard has an opportunity to convince Congress to fund this mission in a new way allowing the Navy to focus on its own modernization projects. This article has been cited by the blog Information Dissemination as a "clever idea," and one deserving of serious discussion. [**ARTICLE 760**](#)

The Latter-Day Sultan: Power and Politics in Iran by Akbar Ganji in *Foreign Affairs*, November-December.

Iran's problems will not go away with a departure of President Ahmedinejad. The most powerful person in Iran remains supreme leader Ali Khamenei; formally and informally over 20 years, he has made the key decisions for the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, and has extended his influence into economic, religious, and cultural affairs through military force. Iranian advocates of democracy and human rights oppose U.S. threats of military strike against Iran. The Bush administration's blunt language and tactics have only strengthened Khamenei and made transition to democracy more difficult, Ganji says. [**ARTICLE 761**](#)

Securing the Future: A Primer on Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Conflict Countries by Sean McFate. *USIP*, September.

Since security is a precondition of sustainable development, security sector reform (SSR) is essential in the transition from war to peace in conflict-affected countries, a rapidly expanding field of urgent importance. SSR is the complex task of transforming the "security sector"- those organizations and institutions that safeguard the state and its citizens from security threats - into professional, effective, legitimate, apolitical, and accountable actors. It can be an effective instrument for conflict prevention and conflict management in changing threat environments. This report, however, focuses on the post-conflict application of SSR, since this is when comprehensive SSR is most often attempted.

ARTICLE 762

Some International Relations online resources which may be of interest:

Sixty Years: Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights *U.S. Dept of State, Bureau of International Information Programs, eJournal USA*, November.

Remarks by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte at Trinity College, Dublin, 17 November In this speech, the Deputy Secretary discusses the Bush Administration's foreign policy – "the broad agenda we've sought to advance in the past eight years, and where it stands today, just two months from the beginning of the Obama presidency."

Protecting Homeland from Day One: A Transition Plan on *Third Way.org*, 16 November. 30p.

China's New Foray into Latin America by David Shambaugh. *YaleGlobal*, 17 November.

Success of the Surge Allows Political Improvements in Iraq *White House* fact sheet, 15 October.

The Kurdistan Region and the Future of Iraq by Masoud Barzani, president of the Kurdistan Region in Iraq; Discusses the roles of Kurds in Iraq, the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Iraq, and other pressing issues. (video, audio, or transcript)

How to Leave a Stable Iraq: Building on Progress by Stephen Biddle, Michael E. O'Hanlon & Kenneth M. Pollack. *Foreign Affairs*, September-October.

U.S. Department of State Implements Iraq Cultural Heritage Project *U.S. Dept of State*, 16 October.

Iraq Cultural Heritage Project (ICHP) Fact sheet. *U.S. Dept of State*, 16 October.

NATO in Afghanistan: A Test of the Transatlantic Alliance *CRS*, 23 October.

The Road Ahead in Afghanistan Brief analysis by Greg Bruno. *Council on Foreign Relations*, 19 November.

In Their Own Words: Voices of Jihad Compilation and commentary by David Aaron. *RAND*, 2008 Note: 349p. **Summary**

Terrorist Assets Report: Calendar Year 2007: Sixteenth Annual Report to Congress on Assets in the United States of Terrorist Countries and International Terrorism Program Designees *Office of Foreign Assets Control, U.S. Dept of the Treasury*, 9 October. 19p.

Treasury Responds to FATF's Call for Strengthened Measures against Iran *U.S. Dept of the Treasury*, 16 October (Iran and terrorism financing).

U.S. Engagement in Southeast Asia Remarks by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Scot A. Marciel to a CSIS meeting, 25 September.

Human Rights in China: Trends and Policy Implications *CRS*, 31 October.

Congress and U.S. Policy on North Korean Human Rights and Refugees: Recent Legislation and Implementation *CRS*, 22 October.

The United States and Africa Remarks by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte at the Foreign Affairs Brain Trust on Africa, 26 September.

Recent U.S. Actions to Halt Iran's Procurement Practices for Attempted Acquisition of WMD-Related Items Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 30 September.

Meeting America's Security Challenges Beyond Iraq: A Conference Report RAND, 2008. Conf. 4 Dec'07.

Reconciliation Strategies in Iraq Report by David A. Steele. *USIP*, September. 20p. **Summary**

The Future of the U.S. Military Presence in Iraq Issue brief by Julie Montgomery. *USIP*, September. 3p.

Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan and Iraq GAO, 1 October.

Thwarting Afghanistan's Insurgency: A Pragmatic Approach toward Peace and Reconciliation Report by Mohammad Masoon Stanekzai. *USIP*, September. 16p. **Summary**

Bhutan's Road to Democracy - Bhutan's Road to Democracy has been a rather unusual one. Instead of people demanding it, it was the former king who pushed a move toward democracy.

The Russian Challenge – Part I – The rise of an assertive Russia requires transatlantic alliance to develop greater cohesion.

The Russian Challenge – Part II - By adopting an atavistic Mother Russia approach in its foreign relations, Moscow is endangering its benefits of being part of a globalized world, casting itself in a position that would prompt hostility and contempt rather than the respect it seeks.

Taiwan-U.S. Relations: Recent Developments and Their Policy Implications CRS, 25 September.

Brazil-U.S. Relations CRS, 18 September.

Political Reconciliation in Iraq and the Helsinki II Process Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, October 8, 2008 (briefing by people from the United Kingdom, the United States, and South Africa). **Transcripts** and scroll down.

U.S. Reaches Record for Iraqi Refugee Admissions and Humanitarian Assistance in Fiscal Year 2008 Media note, U.S. Dept of State, 2 October.

Congressional Approval of the U.S.-India Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (123 Agreement) Statement by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, 2 October.

U.S. Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Fact sheet, *National Nuclear Security Administration*, October 2008. News Release "**Nuclear Weapons Dismantlements up 20%**"

Homeland Security 3.0: Building a National Enterprise to Keep America Free, Safe, and Prosperous by David Heyman & James J. Carafano. *Heritage Foundation* and *CSIS*, 18 September. 28p. **Summary**

Preventing Nuclear Terrorism: Hard Lessons Learned from Troubled Investments Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*, 25 September.

The Visa Waiver Program: Mitigating Risks to Ensure Safety for All Americans Hearing before a subcommittee of the *U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary*, 24 September.

Fish and Food Security Policy brief, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, 2008. 4p.

Persistently High Corruption in Low-Income Countries Amounts to "an Ongoing Humanitarian Disaster" Transparency International, 23 Sept. (announcing the *2008 Corruption Perceptions Index*)

Protecting Individual Privacy in the Struggle against Terrorists: A Framework for Program Assessment by a committee of the National Research Council, 2008. Note: 376p. **News Release** 7 October.

The Long War Journal – an online journal reporting on the Global War on Terror.



POLITICS / ELECTIONS

The Next President: Mastering a Daunting Agenda by Richard Holbrooke in *Foreign Affairs*, Sept./October.

Holbrooke, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from 1999 to 2001 and chief architect of the 1995 Dayton peace accord describes the many daunting challenges facing the next administration. He writes that to restore U.S. leadership in the world requires drastic change in the domestic U.S. economy and repair to the U.S. reputation around the world. Long-term economic reform requires a different national policy on energy and climate change. Repairing the United States' reputation can begin immediately in the next administration by issuing a clear official ban on torture and closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. [ARTICLE 763](#)

Managing Foreign Policy and National Security Challenges in Presidential Transitions by Kurt Campbell & James Steinberg in *Washington Quarterly*, Autumn.

The authors write that the two-and-a-half-month presidential transition periods are replete with dangers and missteps that blindside even the most experienced practitioners, but they are also times of opportunity. While each transition is unique, the next president and his team need to understand the lessons of the past if they are to take advantage of the great opportunities for new U.S. leadership and avoid the landmines that lie ahead. Grave national security challenges during times of presidential transition are hardly new; selecting key personnel is further complicated by the sheer number of appointments that must be made as a result of the widening scope of national security issues. Although cabinet officials are almost always named and confirmed by the first day in office, cumbersome vetting procedures and congressional overload can cause second- and third-tier appointments to languish for months, producing systemic uncertainty and wedging open a dangerous window of vulnerability. [ARTICLE 764](#)

Obama's First Priorities by Richard Haas on *CFR.org*, 5 November.

Council on Foreign Relations President [Richard N. Haass](#), who worked on previous presidential transitions, says that given the current world situation, he believes the first priority for President-elect Barack Obama lies in "the financial and economic side," and that "the near-term foreign policy challenges are probably Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, [and] a little bit of Iraq." He says that ironically, the sharp drop in the price of oil has created "significant economic problems for the Iranian government. It means the financial sanctions are having a lot more traction, and it's possible that this will create an environment in which a new diplomatic initiative could have some promise." [ARTICLE 765](#)

Presidential Transition Process in Need of a Major Upgrade by Norman Ornstein. *American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research*, 16 October.

The most vulnerable period for the United States is the first few months of a new administration. Ornstein warns that the best step to take now would be to follow the State of the Union model. Bush should agree to have one or two of his top Cabinet members, say the secretaries of State and the Treasury, resign as of 9 a.m. January 20, with Bush nominating the incoming president's choices so that the Senate can confirm them before the inauguration. This insures that at least one top official representing the views of the new president and clearly in the line of succession would be away in case of disaster. [ARTICLE 766](#)

The American Public's View of Congress by John Hibbing & Christopher Larimer in *The Forum*, July.

Hibbing, from the University of Nebraska/Lincoln, and Larimer, at the University of Northern Iowa, assert that Congress has long been unpopular with the American public, with approval numbers above fifty percent serving as the exception rather than the norm. In this essay they argue that such disapproval stems not from calculated reaction to policy outcomes or partisan attachments. Rather, people tend to disapprove of Congress for exactly the thing it was designed to be: an open and deliberative lawmaking body. The more Congress does its job, the more the public tends to disapprove. [ARTICLE 767](#)

Obama's "Green Jobs" Plan Will Not Work by Kenneth Green. *AEI*, 19 November.

There may be good reasons to switch from existing energy sources to renewable. But President-elect Barack Obama's energy plans have significant costs, says Green. His energy promises rely on questionable science and even more questionable economics. Green maintains that creating "green jobs" would kill other jobs, and that President-elect Obama has put energy policy at the forefront of his agenda. He says that his plan will boost

national security, help America achieve "energy independence," reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote job creation. Indeed, Obama vows to create around 5 million new jobs by increasing federal spending on renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and biofuels.

ARTICLE 768

Some Political online resources which may be of interest:

Presidential Inaugurations – compiled by *Library of Congress*, incl. chronology of precedents/notable events.

Presidential Succession: Perspectives, Contemp. Analysis, & 110th Congress Prop. Legis. *CRS*, 3 Oct.

Executive Branch Reorganization and Management Initiatives: A Brief Overview *CRS*, 16 September.

The Next President: Mastering a Daunting Agenda - The next U.S. president will inherit a more difficult set of international challenges than any predecessor since World War II.

Foreign Policy for the Next President - the Carnegie Endowment's experts separate good ideas from dead ends and go beyond widely agreed goals to how to achieve them.

Foreign Policy Challenges for the New U.S. President – Part I: Exploiting a lack of jobs, the Taliban rises in Pakistan's border region, threatening US strategy.

Foreign Policy Challenges for the New U.S. President – Part II: While diplomats wrangle, demographics could settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for good.

Shifting Politics Reflect Changes in Regional Alignments - Our politics are changing. One area is in the regional alignments of our parties....and these changes are having an impact in Congress.

Presidential Transitions: Issues Involving Outgoing and Incoming Administrations - As both an administrative and a symbolic event in American politics, presidential transitions can be notable for the smooth and orderly transfer of power from an incumbent Administration to the next President and a shift in focus... In addition to the possibility of having to address certain actions taken by the outgoing Administration, a new President, and his staff, have to deal with "the challenges of moving from a campaign to a governing stance.

Tracking the New Administration's Progress – Gallup Daily will help better understand Americans' continuing reactions to Obama's historic election win, and his actions between now and his inauguration on the 20th January.

The 2008 Presidential and Congressional Elections - The morning after Barack Obama won a historic nod for the White House and Democrats further solidified control of Congress, Brookings' Darrell West and Thomas Mann offered recommendations for getting the nation back on track. (*video and transcript*)

High Marks for Campaign, High Bar for Obama *Pew Research Center for the People and the Press*, 13 November. (results of a survey held a week after the November 2008 U.S. presidential election)

Inside Obama's Sweeping Victory *Pew Research Center for the People and the Press*, 5 November. (sources of Barack Obama's victory at the 2008 presidential election, by demographic)

Young Voters in the 2008 Election *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*, 12 November.

Post-Election Perspectives – What Happened on Election Day, and Why *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*, 13 November.

Retirement Benefits for Members of Congress *CRS*, 28 October.

Midnight Rulemaking: Considerations for Congress and a New Administration *CRS*, 18 November.

TRADE / ECONOMY

The U.S. Economy After Bush by Thomas Palley in *Challenge*, November/December.

The Bush Administration appears to be ending with a severe financial crisis and the possibility of a prolonged economic slump. Putting a bottom to the slump will be the next President's most immediate task. Palley ponders how sustainable growth that generates shared prosperity can be restored, fearing that it will require more than a return to the economic policies of the 1990s. [ARTICLE 769](#)

What Are the Driving Forces of International Business Cycles? by Mario J. Crucini et al. *National Bureau of Economic Research*, October. 41p.

The authors examine the driving forces of G-7 business cycles by decomposing national business cycles into common and nation-specific components using a dynamic factor model. They found that while there is a large common factor in oil prices, productivity, and the terms of trade, productivity is the main driving force, with other drivers isolated to particular nations or sub-periods. [ARTICLE 770](#)

Timely, Targeted, Temporary and Transformative: Crafting an Innovation-Based Economic Stimulus Package by Robert Atkinson. *ITIF [Information Technology and Innovation Foundation]*, October. 70p.

ITIF lays out eight specific proposals that would not only spur spending and economic activity in the short run, but would also help address these challenges going forward. [ARTICLE 771](#)

FDI Spillovers and Their Interrelationships with Trade by Molly Leshner & Sebastien Miroudot. *OECD*, 7 October. 40p.

Foreign Direct Investment (*FDI*) represents an increasingly important dimension of international economic integration with global *FDI* flows growing faster than output over the past two decades. [ARTICLE 772](#)

The Problem with a "Cap and Trade" System by Abigail Haddad in *The American*, 17 November.

The premise of cap-and-trade legislation is that the social costs of GHG emissions—which scientists believe are contributing to global warming—are not reflected in their actual costs. Haddad says it will be very costly, but probably ineffective as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, Obama will inevitably find that establishing the type of cap-and-trade scheme he endorsed during the campaign may not be possible - or desirable. In recent years, various cap-and-trade bills have been proposed on Capitol Hill, but none has come close to passing. [ARTICLE 773](#)

Sundown for California by Joel Kotkin in *The American*, 12 November.

Millions once moved to California for its boundless promise, but time has not been kind to the Golden State. [ARTICLE 774](#)

Some Trade/Economics online resources which may be of interest:

The G-20 Financial Summit: Seven Issues at Stake Summary. *Brookings*, 12 November.

APEC 2008 – 16th APEC Leaders' Meeting – Lima, Peru, 22-23 November 2008.

Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World Summary. *National Intelligence Council*, November.

Cost Estimate for Bill S.3689, the Economic Recovery Act of 2008 *CBO*, 18 November.

Current Economic Conditions and Selected Forecasts *CRS*, 21 October.

The Fed's Big Experiment – The U.S. has embarked on one of the boldest ventures in monetary economics.

The Importance of Reviving the Doha Round by Danielle Markham. *Heritage*, 5 November.

The U.S. Economy and Financial Market Turmoil Speech by James Bullard, President, *Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis*, 14 October.

The Top 10 Global Economic Challenges Facing America's 44th President by Lael Brainard. *Brookings*'08.

International Cooperation for the Financial Crisis – A worldwide crisis requires international cooperation.

Budget Reform Proposals for the 111th Congress Hearing before the U.S. *House Committee on the Budget*, 25 September.

The Treatment of Federal Receipts and Expenditures in the National Income and Product Accounts *CBO*, September.

A Guide to the Housing Crisis: Ten Questions and Answers Issue brief by Bernard Wasow. *The Century Foundation*, October. 6p. **News Release**

Remarks by U.S. Acting Under Secretary of the Treasury Anthony Ryan, October 6, 2008, on financial stability: the policy framework and practical measures

The U.S. Financial Regulatory System Backgrounder by Lee Hudson Teslik. *Council on Foreign Relations*, 2 October.

A Working Financial Sector Matters to Us All Address by Dennis P. Lockhart, President and CEO, *Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta*, 30 September.

Sovereign Wealth Funds: Publicly Available Data on Sizes and Investments for Some Funds are Limited *GAO*, September.

U.S. Income Inequality: It's Not So Bad by Thomas A. Garrett. *Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, The Regional Economist*, October.

A Strong Bipartisan Proposal to Stabilize Our Financial System *White House* fact sheet, 29 September.

Discussion Draft Text of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (bill), *NYT*, 28 September.

Cost Estimate on Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 *CBO*, 28 September.

Metropolitan Economic Growth Widespread in 2008 *Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Dept of Commerce*, 25 September. **Full release with tables** 29p.

The New Competition for Global Resources Report by *Boston Consulting Group and Knowledge@Wharton*, (September) 2008. 24p. **Summary**

U.S. International Trade: Trends and Forecasts *CRS*, 5 September.

The Money Trail: Finding, Following, and Freezing Terrorist Finance by Matthew Leavitt & Michael Johnson. *Washington Institute for Near East Policy*, November.

Millennium Challenge Account *CRS*, 8 October.

Health and Safety Concerns Over U.S. Imports of Chinese Products: Overview by Wayne Morrison. *CRS*, 17 October. 6p.

ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

The Short List by Gerald Gardner & Paul C. Stern in *Environment*, September/October.

The most effective actions U.S. households can take to curb climate change.

[ARTICLE 775](#)

Cultivating Food Security in *Worldwatch*, October.

Despite technological advances, the number of hungry people in developing countries increased by 18 million in the second half of the 1990s, to some 800 million today. Worldwide, nearly 2 billion people suffer from hunger and chronic nutrient deficiencies. Behind the tragic photographs of these desperate individuals, however, are the less visible problems that threaten the global food supply.

[ARTICLE 776](#)

A Widening Gap: Republican and Democratic Views on Climate Change by Riley E. Dunlap & Aaron M. McCright in *Environment*, September/October.

On the surface, American's views on global warming have remained generally unchanged over the past decade. Closer examination reveals a growing divide along Democratic and Republican lines. How might the next U.S. president influence this trend?

[ARTICLE 777](#)

Three Years After Katrina: Lessons From Community Resilience by Craig Colten et al. in *Environment*, September/October.

At the 3-year mark New Orleans struggles to recover from Hurricane Katrina. Considering the city's situation in light of the elements of community resilience provides necessary lessons for building a more sustainable community.

Please contact us for a copy of this article. [ARTICLE 778](#)

Federal Court Rules Clean Air, Wildlife, Quiet Must Come First in America's Oldest National Park. *Greater Yellowstone Commission*, 16 September. 3p.

A federal court ruled on Sept. 15, 2008 that the Bush Administration's decision authorizing snowmobile use in Yellowstone National Park violates the fundamental legal responsibility of the National Park Service to give top priority to conservation of national park resources. The court found that the Administration authorized snowmobile use despite scientific conclusions by the National Park Service that its decision would result in significant increases in disruptive noise, unhealthy exhaust and harm to Yellowstone's animals.

[ARTICLE 779](#)

Feeding the Future: The Role of the U.S. Ethanol Industry in Food and Feed Production. *Renewable Fuels Association*, 5 October. 8p.

Just how much animal feed does the American ethanol industry produce each year? According to a new analysis, America's ethanol producers delivered 23 million metric tons of livestock and poultry feed to the world last year, or nearly three times the amount of wheat, sorghum, barley and oats fed to U.S. livestock in the 2007/08 marketing year. The amount of feed produced by the ethanol industry in 2007/08 is roughly equivalent to the combined total amount of feed consumed by cattle on feed last year in Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado—the nation's four largest feedlot states.

[ARTICLE 780](#)

Green Affordable Housing *U.S. Government Accountability Office*, 7 October. 68p.

Rising energy prices and concerns about the environment have fueled interest in "green building;" resource-efficient construction and maintenance practices that reduce adverse impacts on the natural environment. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) spends an estimated \$5 billion on energy costs annually in its affordable housing programs and has recently taken steps to reduce its energy costs.

[ARTICLE 781](#)

Energy Security in South East Asia: Can Interdependence Breed Stability? by Joseph McMillan in *Strategic Forum*, September.

South Asia is projected to play a major role in global energy markets over the next several decades, with India alone expected to become the world's third largest importer of petroleum by 2030. Satisfying the region's growing demands will require a heightened degree of energy interdependence among historically antagonistic states. From the U.S. point of view, understanding the multifaceted causal connections that exist among economic development, energy supplies, and security and stability, and how these dynamics are likely to affect South Asian states' decision making, may provide points of leverage with which policymakers can shape behaviour on a wide range of issues affecting U.S. objectives in the region, says McMillan. [ARTICLE 782](#)

Carbon Offsets: The U.S. Voluntary Market is Growing But Quality Assurance Poses Challenges for Market Participants. *U.S. Government Accountability Office*, 29 September. 65p.

Carbon offsets, reductions of greenhouse gas emissions from an activity in one place to compensate for emissions elsewhere, are a way to address climate change by paying someone else to reduce emissions. In the U.S., there are no federal requirements and offsets may be purchased in the voluntary market. The report examines the scope of the U.S. voluntary carbon offset market, including the role of the federal government, the extent to which mechanisms for ensuring the credibility of offsets are available and used and what, if any, related information is shared with consumers. It also examines the trade-offs associated with increased oversight of the U.S. market and including offsets in climate change mitigation policies. [ARTICLE 783](#)

Pensions in Peril: Are State Officials Risking Public Employees Retirement Benefits by Playing Global Warming Politics? by Steven J. Milloy & Thomas Borelli. *Nat. Center for Public Policy Research*, 29 September.

Global warming has emerged as an important issue for investors, including state and local pension funds. Although global warming regulation appears likely to cause significant adverse impacts to the broad economy and stock market, a substantial minority of state and local pension funds are nonetheless actively promoting global warming regulation, while the majority of state and local pension funds have yet to promote or oppose such regulation. Compounding this problem is the fact that many of these pension fund systems are dangerously under-funded and are relying on predicted investment returns that are not likely to occur. [ARTICLE 784](#)

Farmer in Chief by Michael Pollan in *New York Times Magazine*, 9 October.

In an article framed as a letter to the President-elect, the author notes that food, an issue barely mentioned during the election campaign, may become a primary issue facing the next administration. While both candidates spent a lot of time talking about health care, energy independence and climate change, Pollan notes that the next President "will quickly discover that the way we currently grow, process and eat food in America goes to the heart of all three problems". Food production, processing and distribution in the U.S. is one of the biggest consumers of fossil fuels, using ten calories of hydrocarbon energy to bring one calorie of food energy from the farm to the supermarket. The goals of food production for most of the last few decades have been to produce large quantities of cheap, subsidized commodity crops, used in heavily processed convenience foods, contributing to the poor diet of most Americans. Pollan notes that the main challenge is to wean U.S. food production off fossil fuels and back onto "incoming sunlight" by relocalizing agriculture. [ARTICLE 785](#)

Some environmental online resources which may be of interest:

Nuclear Energy Policy *CRS*, 2 September.

New Harris Poll "Flashback" Finds Half of Americans Favor Building More Nuclear Plants; Opposition Drops to 13% Since Three Mile Island Accident 30 years Ago - While a third of Americans are still opposed to new nuclear plant construction, this opposition has decreased by 13% (from 45% to 32%) since April 1979 just after the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant on March 28, 1979.

Managing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Policy Implications of Expanding Global Access to Nuclear Power
CRS, 3 September.

New IAEA staff report on nuclear trafficking 26 September.

FDA Issues Interim Safety and Risk Assessment of Melamine and Melamine-Related Compounds in Food FDA news release, 3 October . **Assessment**

2008 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard *American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy*, October 2008. **Press release**

EIA Launches New Online Press Room (EIA), *U.S. Dept of Energy*, October 7, 2008. **Press Room**

Climate-Change Policy and CO2 Emissions from Passenger Vehicles CBO, 6 October. 8p.

Climate Change: Federal Actions Will Greatly Affect the Viability of Carbon Capture and Storage as a Key Mitigation Option GAO, September.

National Water Program Strategy: Response to Climate Change EPA, October 2008. **News Release** 2 October.

Are Energy Prices Threatening the Farm Boom? by Jason Henderson. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, *The Main Street Economist*, Volume III, Issue 5 (2008). 5p.

Feeding the Future: The Role of the U.S. Ethanol Industry in Food and Feed Production *Renewable Fuels Association*, September. 8p. **News Release and Summary**

Food Inflation and the Consumption Patterns of U.S. Households *Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Chicago Fed Letter*, October.

Number of Farmers Markets Continues to Rise in U.S.: news release, *USDA Agricultural Marketing Service*, 19 September. **Data**

Sugar Policy and the 2008 Farm Bill CRS, 1 July.

Assessment of Moderate- and High-Temperature Geothermal Resources of the U.S. *U.S. Geological Survey*, Sept. 4p. **News Release** incl. the first national geothermal resource est. in over 30 years.

Green Building Glossary – by the *Dept of Planning and Development, City of Seattle*.

President Bush Discusses U.S. Ocean Action Plan Text of remarks, 26 September. White House fact sheet, **"Protecting Our Oceans"**

Tackling Marine Debris in the 21st Century Report by a committee, *National Research Council*, 2008. Note: 224p. **Summary** **News Release** 19 September.

Energy Policy of the Presidential Candidates *Deloitte*, September. 6p.

The Manhattan Project, the Apollo Program, and Federal Technology R&D Programs: A Comparative Analysis CRS, 3 September.

Carbon Offsets: The U.S. Voluntary Market is Growing, but Quality Assurance Poses Challenges for Market Participants GAO, August.

Bush Administration Environmental Record at Department of Interior and Environmental Protection Agency - Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works*, 24 September.

Wildlife Refuges: Changes in Funding, Staffing, and Other Factors Create Concerns about Future Sustainability GAO, September.

China's Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Mitigation Policies CRS, 10 September.

EDUCATION

Status and Trends in the Education of American Indians and Alaska Natives: 2008 by Jill Fleury DeVoe et al. *U.S. Department of Education*, 11 October. Note: 203p.

The report examines both the educational progress of American Indian/Alaska Native children and adults and challenges in their education. It shows that over time more American Indian/Alaska Native students have gone on to college and that their attainment expectations have increased. Despite these gains, progress has been uneven and differences persist between American Indian/Alaska Native students and students of other racial/ethnic groups on key indicators of educational performance. [ARTICLE 786](#)

Children's Environmental Health: 2008 *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, 11 October. 32p.

The publication outlines national efforts to protect children from environmental risks over the last year. The agency has funded research on how the environment affects children's health, promoted the education of health care providers, published information about how climate change affects children's health, and assembled data to quantify the extent of children's health issues. Issues in the report include childhood asthma, lead poisoning, exposure to the sun, children and chemicals, integrated pest management, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units and research findings. [ARTICLE 787](#)

Why the Arts Make Sense in Education by Linda Nathan in *Phi Delta Kappan*, November.

Boston Arts Academy provides an example of how high schools can incorporate the arts into academia. Incorporating the arts into all high schools can benefit student learning because students are able to make connections and to apply their learning in concrete ways. *Please contact us for a copy of this article.* **ARTICLE 788**

Thank You Miss Katherine by Cynthia Compton in *Phi Delta Kappan*, November.

A thank you note from an elementary school-age student renders testament to the power of art in a world dominated by test scores. Once again we find that teaching dance in an academic setting can improve student learning and boost student self-confidence. *Please contact us for a copy of this article.* **ARTICLE 789**

The Unexplored Promise of Visual Literacy in American Classrooms by Larry Myatt in *Phi Delta Kappan*, November.

It becomes clearer each day that scientists are not the only ones moving beyond text and numbers, says Myatt. *Please contact us for a copy of this article.* **ARTICLE 790**

Learning Curve: Adapting Library Workspaces by James Haug on *Educause Quarterly*, November.

Student insights and suggestions help maximize collaborative and individual learning in the information commons. [ARTICLE 791](#)

Some related online resources which may be of interest:

A Commitment to Quality: National Charter School Policy Forum Report *U.S. Dept of Education*, October. 31p. [Full report](#) [Press Release](#)

Counting on Graduation: An Agenda for State Leadership by Anna Habash. *The Education Trust*, October. 10p. [News Release](#)

Student Victimization in U.S. Public Schools *National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Dept of Education*, October. [Full text](#) 58p.

Student Debt and the Class of 2007. Project on Student Debt, October. [General information](#) [Press Release](#) by *Pew Charitable Trusts*.

AMERICAN SOCIETY

Is the 'Good Life' As America Knows It Over? by Steve Fraser in *Tomdispatch*, 19 September.

Fraser, author of "Wall Street: America's Dream Palace" writes that the undoing of Pres. Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal program and its regulatory regime, with the "socialization of risk", is what has resulted in the present-day collapse of the U.S. financial system. He notes that, despite the free-market, anti-government rhetoric, the bailing out of the financial industry by Washington is acknowledgment of how dependent the U.S. economy has become on the financial sector. He notes that the financial system is out of control, and that it is "time for a reversal of course..." [ARTICLE 792](#)

Teens, Video Games, and Civics by Amanda Lenhart et al. *Pew Internet & American Life Project and MacArthur Foundation*, 20 September. 76p.

The 1st national survey finds that virtually all American teens play computer, console, or cell phone games and that the experience is rich and varied, with a significant amount of social interaction and potential for civic engagement. The survey of 1,102 youth ages 12-17 conclude game playing is universal, with almost all teens playing games and at least half playing games on a given day. It is social, with most teens playing games with others some of the time, and can incorporate many aspects of civic and political life. [ARTICLE 793](#)

A Guide to the Housing Crisis: 10 Questions & Answers by Bernard Wasow. *Century Foundation*, 4 October. 6p.

As Congress tries to work out a financial rescue plan, many people are still trying to understand how the financial institutions got into so much trouble in the first place, and why the government needs to take action to bail them out. In an issue brief Bernard Wasow answers ten crucial questions about the housing crisis. The questions include why did lenders make so many bad loans for mortgages and why are so many different banks and brokerages all over the world in hot water. [ARTICLE 794](#)

The Futility of Class Warfare by Bradley Schiller in *Policy Review*, October/November.

The "Race Card," once an effective ploy in electoral politics, is increasingly viewed as not just an unfair play, but an inefficient one as well (as Hillary Clinton learned). [ARTICLE 795](#)

Some related online resources which may be of interest:

[Who Are the "Middle Class"?](#) CRS, 22 October.

[2010 Diversity Visa Lottery Program Registration](#) Media note, *U.S. Dept of State*, 30 September.

[High Stakes, More Meaning: An Overview of the Process of Redesigning the U.S. Citizenship Test](#) *Migration Policy Institute*, September. 18p.

[A First Look at Older Americans and the Mortgage Crisis](#) AARP, September. 6p.

[Safeguarding Retiree Health Benefits](#) Hearing, the *U.S. House Comm. on Education and Labor*, 25 Sept.

[Pensions in Peril: Are State Officials Risking Public Employee Retirement Benefits by Playing Global Warming Politics?](#) by Steven J. Milloy & Thomas Borelli. *Nat. Center for Public Policy Research*, September.

[U.S. Asylum System: Agencies Have Taken Actions to Help Ensure Quality in the Asylum Adjudication Process, but Challenges Remain](#) GAO, September.

[U.S. Asylum System: Significant Variation Existed in Asylum Outcomes across Immigration Courts and Judges](#) GAO, September.

[Reducing Illegal Immigration Through Employment Verification, Enforcement, and Protection](#) *Heritage*, 7 October.

BUSINESS

U.S. Metro Economies: Current and Potential Green Jobs in the U.S. Economy. *United States Conference of Mayors*, 6 October. 41p.

According to the study, the U.S. economy currently generates more than 750,000 green jobs, a number that is projected to grow five-fold to more than 4.2 million jobs over the next three decades. The report is the first calculation of its kind to measure how many direct and indirect jobs are in the new and emerging U.S. green economy. Current green jobs are well distributed across the country. Approximately 85% are located in metropolitan areas, while the remaining ones are found in non-metro counties. [ARTICLE 796](#)

For the Greater Good by John Quelch & Katherine Jocz in *The American*, November/December.

The benefits of modern marketing and advertising are little understood and rarely appreciated. [ARTICLE 797](#)

Writer's Strike of 2007-2008: The Economic Impact of Digital Distribution by Kevin Klowden & Anusuya Chatterjee. *Milken Institute*, 8 June. 38p.

The entertainment industry is still recovering from the effects of the work stoppage and digesting the implications of the new labor agreement. Revenue sharing from digital media was at the heart of the dispute and production was shut down on numerous films and many of television's most popular shows. The writers' strike has also had significant and lingering effects on television viewers, causing a decline in revenues for the broadcast networks. The report reviews the overall effects of the writers' strike on California's economy and the underlying causes of the dispute, examining in particular how the growing market for new media has changed the dynamics of the entertainment industry. [ARTICLE 798](#)

Much Ado About Nothing: American Jobs and the Rise of Service Outsourcing to China and India by Runjuan Liu & Daniel Trefler. *National Bureau of Economic Research*, June 2008. 64p.

The study examines the impact on U.S. labor markets of offshore outsourcing in services to China and India. It also considers the reverse flow or 'in shoring' which is the sale of services produced in the U.S. to unaffiliated buyers in China and India. The impacts on occupation and industry switching, weeks spent unemployed as a share of weeks in the labor force, and earnings are analyzed. The results indicate that there are small positive effects of in shoring and smaller negative effects of offshore outsourcing. [ARTICLE 799](#)

Overtime by Steven Sass in *Boston College Magazine*, vol. 68, no. 3, Summer.

Job holders in the soon-to-retire Baby Boom generation, those born between 1946 and 1962, will have to work longer than their parents did. The Golden Age of retirement of the 1960s and 1970s, with cutbacks in Social Security and the general disappearance of traditional pensions, is gone. To enjoy a reasonably comfortable old age, the Baby Boom generation has little choice but to stay in the labor force longer. The picture is further complicated by a new instability in employment for older workers, and much more frequent job changes. The entry of China, India and the former Soviet Union into the world economic system has doubled the size of the labor force potentially available to U.S. employers over the last 10 to 15 years. [ARTICLE 800](#)

Some related online resources which may be of interest:

Networked Workers: Most Workers Use the Internet or Email at their Jobs, but They Say These Technologies Are a Mixed Blessing for Them *Pew Internet & American Life Project*, 24 September. 57p.

E-Portfolios as a Hiring Tool: Do Employers Really Care? by Chris Ward & Chris Moser on *Educause*, Nov.

GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION:

Census of Governments Counts 16 Million State and Local Employees *U.S. Census Bureau*, 22 October.

The Federal Workforce: Characteristics and Trends *CRS*, 30 September.

Shutdown of the Federal Government: Causes, Processes, and Effects *CRS*, 23 September.

MEDIA

The Elite Newspaper of the Future by Philip Meyer in *American Journalism Review*, November.

Meyer believes that newspapers that survive will probably do so with some kind of hybrid content: analysis, interpretation and investigative reporting in a print product that appears less than daily, combined with constant updating and reader interaction on the Web. He adds also that a newspaper's most important product, the product least vulnerable to substitution, is community influence. It gains this influence by being the trusted source for locally produced news, analysis and investigative reporting about public affairs, its influence making it more attractive to advertisers.

ARTICLE 801

The Bigger Tent by Ann Cooper in *CJR*, September/October.

The question of "who is a journalist" is a thing of the past, with bloggers, amateur videographers, and others now widely recognized as falling within the "big tent" of mainstream journalism. Cooper says barriers will continue to erode, and while more traditional journalists are adopting the less formal blogs along with news aggregates, the bloggers are also doing some original reporting, along with disseminating news and opinion. The better question now is "what is journalism?" The author says the best of both worlds can be combined for the good of the public. "Old media will have to let go of some attitudes and assumptions that are no longer relevant, and new media will need to recognize standards that can infuse credibility and trust into this new journalism," she says. The goal of the fourth estate to hold power accountable, inform the citizenry and strengthen democracy still remains intact in this new age of journalism, she argues.

ARTICLE 802

About Those Anonymice by Cassandra Lizaire & Alicia Tejada in *CJR*, September/October.

Anonymous sources have long served as the anchors for many investigative stories. A research project evaluates how closely NYT reporters adhere to the paper's anonymous sourcing policy. The argument presented by critics of the article was that if reporters are going to introduce anonymous sources, they should better communicate why information obtained from such sources is reliable.

ARTICLE 803

What Are Newspapers Selling? by the Editors in *CJR*, September/October.

Time to mine the depth and knowledge niche, as newspapers around the country face overhauls often accompanied by a memo from the editor that explains how the changes are designed to help the newsroom "do more with less."

ARTICLE 804

Consumer Guides in *CJR*, September/October.

I shop therefore I am.... Help is at hand...

ARTICLE 805

The Transformation of NPR by Jennifer Dorrah in *American Journalism Review*, November.

Long defined by its radio programming, National Public Radio is reinventing itself.

ARTICLE 806

21st Century Muckrackers: Staying Local, Digging Deep *Nieman*, Fall.

On this point, editors, reporters and newspaper readers agree. In a time of cutbacks and a shrinking news hole, at a moment when print is in peril and digital is dominant, watchdog and investigative reporting must remain at the core of journalism's mission. In this third part of our 21st Century Muckrakers project, editors and reporters speak to how metro and regional newspapers are confronting the enormous challenges of today and offer clues to where this kind of reporting will likely be headed tomorrow. —Melissa Ludtke, editor.

COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Role of the Internet in Burma's Saffron Revolution by Mridul Chowdhury. *Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University*, 6 October. 17p.

The 2007 Saffron Revolution in Burma was in many ways an unprecedented event in the intersection between politics and technology. It is an example of an Internet driven protest which did not lead to tangible political change. It is also of interest because of the complex interaction between eyewitnesses within the country and a networked public sphere of bloggers, student activists, and governments around the globe. The case study examines the root causes, progress, and outcomes of the Saffron Revolution and attempts to show the extent to which technology may have played a useful or detrimental role in the unfolding of events. [ARTICLE 807](#)

Cybersecurity Economic Issues *RAND Corporation*, 24 September. 5p.

The emerging field of cyber security economics could benefit from better data, better understanding, and better methods for using resources, to provide assurances that software will work as expected. The research brief presents findings that address these key cyber security concerns, perceptions of the importance of cyber security, and considerations for cyber security investment decisions. It suggests that companies, the government, and other organizations can help improve our understanding of cyber security economics by monitoring cyber security incidents and responses, soliciting and using standard terminology and measures, and sharing data whenever possible. [ARTICLE 808](#)

Potential Health Risks of Exposure to Noise From Personal Music Players and Mobile Phone Including a Music Playing Function by Konrad Ydzinski & Thomas Jung. *Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks, European Commission*, 15 October. 81p.

Listening to personal music players at a high volume over a sustained period can lead to permanent hearing damage, according to an opinion of the EU Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR). The scientific opinion shows that 5-10% of personal music player listeners risk permanent hearing loss, if they listen to a personal music player for more than one hour per day each week at high volume settings for at least 5 years. [ARTICLE 809](#)

Digital Quality of Life: Understanding the Personal and Social Benefit of the Information Technology Revolution by Robert D. Atkinson & Daniel D. Castro. *ITIF*, 11 October. Note: 185p.

In the new global economy information technology (IT) is the major driver of both economic growth and improved quality of life. The report documents how IT, since the mid-1990s, has been the principal driver of increased economic growth not only in the United States but also in many other nations. Information technology is also at the core of dramatic improvements in the quality of life for individuals around the world. The report shows how IT is the key enabler of many of today's key innovations and improvements in our lives and society, from better education and health care, to a cleaner and more energy-efficient environment, to safer and more secure communities and nations. [ARTICLE 810](#)

Some online resources which may be of interest:

Remarks by Kevin Martin, chairman of the U.S. Federal Communications Comm. "Network Neutrality Conference: Implications for Innovation and Business Online" Copenhagen, 30 September.

Broadband Providers and Consumer Privacy Hearing, *U.S. Senate Comm. on Com. Science & Trans.* 25 Sept.

Cybercrime Against Businesses 2005. U.S. Dept of Justice, September. 20p. [Summary](#) [Press Release](#)

Reading the Future of Web Search by Dan Giancaterino. Law.com, *The Legal Intelligencer*, 25 September.

Options for and Effectiveness of Internet Self- and Co-Regulation Summary. *RAND*, 2008.

THE ARTS & CULTURE

Thanksgiving – the Fourth Thursday in November in the United States is possibly the premier U.S. family celebration, typically celebrated at home and marked with a substantial feast. As the anchor of what is for many a four-day holiday weekend, Thanksgiving provides an occasion for family reunions, marks the beginning of the “holiday season” that continues through Christmas and New Year’s Day and, as its name suggests, affords Americans a shared opportunity to express their gratitude for plentiful food and general abundance. A time for reflection, and gratitude, this American tradition is rooted in a 1621 New England harvest celebration.

Thanksgiving at the White House 2008 **Presidential Proclamation on Thanksgiving Day 2008**

Past Economic Downturns and the Outlook for Foundation Giving by Steven Lawrence.
Foundation Center, 14 October.

Since the current economic crisis began in the latter half of 2007, the *Foundation Center* has been fielding questions about the possible impact of a downturn on foundation giving. The Foundation Center began collecting data on all grant making private and community foundations in 1975, and the country has weathered several recessions in this time. During each of these recessionary periods, 1980, 1981-82, 1990-91, and 2001, U.S. foundation giving in inflation-adjusted dollars actually increased slightly.

ARTICLE 811

Web Science: Studying the Internet to Protect our Future by Nigel Shadbolt & Tim Berners-Lee in *Scientific American*, September.

Studying the Web will reveal better ways to exploit information, prevent identity theft, revolutionize industry and manage our ever-growing online lives. The relentless rise in Web pages and links is creating emergent properties - from social networking to virtual identity theft - that are transforming society. A new discipline, Web science, aims to discover how Web traits arise and how they can be harnessed or held in check to benefit society. Important advances are beginning to be made; more work can solve major issues such as securing privacy and conveying trust.

ARTICLE 812

Arts Over America – The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is the membership organization that unites, represents and serves the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. Each of the **states and jurisdictions** has created an agency to support excellence in and access to the arts. Its mission is to strengthen state arts agencies. We represent their individual and collective interests, empower their work through knowledge, and advance the arts as an essential public benefit. NASAA works at the national, state and local levels to ensure that

- every individual has abundant opportunities to participate in the artistic experience;
 - the arts play a valued role in the educational, economic and cultural well-being of our communities;
 - the nation's artists and arts organizations are key partners in providing public benefits; and
 - our nation's diversity is recognized and celebrated through the arts.
- **Arts & Learning Resources for State Leaders**

SPACE

Spinoff 2008 Highlights NASA Innovations in Everyday Life News release, NASA, 8 October.

The 2008 edition / NASA’s Spinoff main page / searchable database of spinoff applications

NASA: Agency Faces Challenges Defining Scope and Costs of Space Shuttle Transition and Retirement GAO, September.

**** To access articles, either read the whole document or skip to subject – see box, bottom right front page ****

All ARTICLES are available online. All links were live at 24th November Please “click” the ARTICLE #

If you have trouble accessing the articles, please contact us at Wellington.arc@state.gov

Please visit our web site @ <http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/>